

The Lions Roar



INDEPENDENCE

November 2005

Three Staff Members at WSSB Receive National Honors

The Washington State School for the Blind is pleased to announce that three staff members have received National Awards from the Council of Schools for the Blind.

Bill English Award 2005: Dr. Dean Stenehjem, Superintendent – for outstanding contributions, leadership and service to blind and visually impaired students and the field of education of the blind and visually impaired.

Outstanding Teacher of Students who are Blind or Visually Impaired 2005: Lori Pulliam – Lori is a team player. She has mentored and supervised many staff in the areas of transition and work experience job coach. Through Lori's expertise, the staff is well trained in teaching students to become independent in the work place and adult living.

Outstanding Paraprofessional who is currently working with Blind or Visually Impaired School Age Children 2005 (i.e. Teacher Assistant): Theresa Blodgett – Theresa was recognized for her outstanding ability to work with children of different ages and abilities in various content areas with extreme creativity and flexibility. She shows patience and skill carrying out instruction with any group of students.

Dean, Lori, and Theresa were presented their awards at the *COSB Awards Banquet* held in conjunction with the annual meeting of The American Printing House for the Blind, October 2005, Louisville, Kentucky.



Pictured above (from left to right): Craig Meador, Director of On-Campus, Lori Pulliam (award winner), Dee Amundsen, Director of Outreach, Theresa Blodgett (award winner), Colleen Lines (Manager, Braille Access Center/Instructional Resource Center), and Dean Stenehjem (award winner)

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Education

By Craig Meador, Director On-Campus Programs



The Whole Story: I recently returned from the Council of Schools for the Blind annual conference in Kentucky. It was a great time to meet with other principals to discuss pressing issues. The two greatest issues were teacher shortages and statewide testing. Almost every state was wrestling with the problem of bias issues. Math and Science tests are highly visual in nature. This creates real problems with blind and visually impaired students.

Percentages and Numbers: In this day of accountability we are asked to measure our student's success by test scores, graduation rates and attendance. This provides the state with a quick snapshot of school effectiveness. I think to tell the story of our students we need more than a snapshot.

Telling Our Story: We make a difference in the lives of kids! We believe that. We can recount many stories of student success in their academic and personal lives. It is, however, difficult to transfer that information into a percent or number that the state can easily recognize and interpret. Regardless of difficulty we must speak the language of the state. We need to find a way that transfers these success stories into measures that speak loudly of student accomplishments.

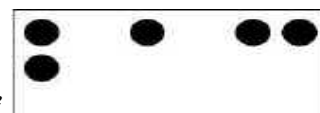
Our Plan: At this time we are collecting data in the Core Competencies (Braille, Assistive Technology, Daily Living Skills, Orientation and Mobility, Social Skills, Vocational) as well as test scores. This will give us baseline data. We will recollect a second sample of data in the late spring. This will provide us with a percentage of growth that can be equated to a yearly progress scale. The end result will be a clear statement of student success.

State Assessments: All students grades three through eight and tenth will be assessed this year with the Washington Assessment of Student Learning. All tenth grade students will need to pass the WASL in order to earn a diploma. This may create some issues for our students. We are looking at the alternative means for students to achieve their diplomas and are working with Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to develop a bias free WASL. Information regarding the WASL can be found on the OSPI website www.k12.wa.us.

BAC News

By Judi Sorter , Publications Specialist

BAC is an unfunded program supported by a fee-for-service



Fall is always a busy time here at the Braille Access Center/Instructional Resource Center. There's the Voters Pamphlet to do, many, many orders to be shipped, and an awful lot of textbooks to be transcribed and proofread. This year we have an unusual number of math texts to be done. Math books require particular care when proofing, because a + instead of a - sign makes for a very different problem. The solution for this is to have one person following in the print text while I read the Braille. Colleen, Chris and Kandi

have all taken turns with this task. During the summer one of the Residential Life Counselor's, Ally Blacklock, worked with us part time.

Now, however, we have hired a new employee whose main, but not only, responsibility is to read the print math texts. Her name is Cynthia Marchese and we are happy to have her. She's a pleasure to work with and we're really zooming through the math books. Come down sometime and say hello.



OUTREACH SERVICES

By Dee Amundsen, Director of Outreach

We get several calls per week from people asking for information about enrollment in the on-campus program. The admissions process begins in the Outreach Department. Evaluation packets are mailed out to families considering placement of their child at WSSB. Notice is sent to the school district that the request has been made. Once evaluation materials are returned, the Administrative Team reviews each application. At this point a date may be set for the student to begin school at WSSB and a letter is mailed to the parents and school district informing them of the start date, items to bring with them, etc. If, after reading through the returned evaluation packet, we have questions about the appropriateness of placement at WSSB, we may request further information or we may visit the child's school to get a better understanding of the issues, concerns and needs before making a determination. All children who attend WSSB begin with a 30-day evaluation. A meeting that includes parents, WSSB and a represen-

tative of the child's school district is held at the end of this period to discuss whether continued placement at WSSB is appropriate. If so, a change of placement is done. If not, the child returns to their local school district.

We receive enrollment requests from all over the state of Washington. We are seeing a trend of more east-side and out-of-state families requesting that their child attend WSSB. Families of children who attend WSSB must be residents of the state of Washington and often families move here so their children can attend WSSB.

If you would like to explore the possibility of your child becoming a WSSB student, or would like more information about any or all of our programs, I would welcome the opportunity to speak with you. Please call Dee Amundsen at 360-696-6321 ext. 124.

School of Piano Technology for the Blind

Tune In To Opportunity!

By Len Leger, Executive Director



On October 27th, over 170 people attended the 55th Anniversary Celebration and Fundraising Dinner for the School of Piano Technology for the Blind at the Red Lion Hotel at the Quay in Vancouver, Washington.

Over \$30,000 was donated to support the School's recruiting initiatives. The evening began with the reading of a city proclamation citing the school's leadership in vocational education for the blind and visually impaired since it was founded by Emil B. Fries in 1949. Royce Pollard, Vancouver's Mayor alternated reading from a print version of the proclamation with Don Mitchell, Director of Instruction, who read from a Braille copy of the proclamation that was produced at the Braille Access Center at WSSB. One of the evening's highlights was testimonials by blind graduates of the School who have gone on to live independent, productive lives and enjoy financial success in the piano service industry. Applications are now being accepted for admission into the piano technology program starting either in February or September 2006.

For more information, please visit the school's website: www.pianotuningschool.org

SKIFORALL



Rachel Talley, WSSB Student, enjoying her ride around the track.

Making the trek from Seattle to Vancouver, the SKIFORALL Foundation made an appearance on WSSB's campus Thursday, September 22nd. SKIFORALL, whose mission is to improve the quality of life for children and adults with disabilities through year-round outdoor recreation, was able to bring a portion of their adaptive cycle fleet and other recreational equipment to WSSB thanks to a recent grant received from the Gibney Family Foundation.

After a brief safety demonstration and explanation of the afternoon's

events, students were split into two groups and ready to take on the outdoors! The first group had the opportunity to feel, try on and experience (despite not having any snow) what it might be like to take part in a snowshoe event this winter. The second group, and eventually, everyone strapped on helmets and chose a bike of their liking. Among SKIFORALL's many adaptive cycles are side-by-side tandems, three-wheeled independent trikes and hand crank cycles. For many students, this was their first attempt and success at riding independently.

Smiles and exclamations of pride and fun were certainly not scarce. Emily Opheikens reflected on the day's events, "Oh my gosh, it was my first time on that kind of bike. And I love it!"

For more information about SKIFORALL's year-round recreational programs including hiking, cycling, canoeing, water-skiing, rock climbing, in-line skating, weekend excursions, day camps, and on-snow activities please check out our website at www.skiforall.org or call (425) 462-0978.

Buy Groceries? Consign Furniture?

It's that easy to support the Washington School for the Blind Foundation



Albertson's Community Partner. WSBF is pleased to report we are generating about \$70 per quarter with our **Albertson's Grocery Stores Community Partner Program**, "*Giving back for youth one shopping cart at a time.*" It's easier than ever as no card is required. Call Jan Jorgenson at (360) 696-6321, extension 177, go online: www.albertsons.com/a

bs_inthecommunity/youth_education/default.asp or call (800) 696-6419 and connect your Community Partner Card with your Albertson's Preferred Savings Card. Albertson's sends a rebate to WSBF for youth and education technology.

Divine Consign Benefits WSBF. This new community fundraiser "Divine Consign" will

allow you to donate your furniture and recommend WSBF to receive a share 50% of the proceeds. Donate your furniture and benefit WSBF projects. This is a year round operation. There is a huge show room in downtown Vancouver (904 Main Street) and there is an online show-room at: www.divineconsignfurniture.org.

Any questions, please contact Angie Armstrong, WSBF Executive Director at (360) 696-6321 extension 176.



Greetings from the West Coast Blind Sports Association

The West Coast Blind Sports Association (WCBSA) is a regional, non-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to the development of blind and visually impaired athletes both locally and throughout the West Coast. Our primary objective is to encourage participation in sports programs through the use of volunteer efforts and sponsors. This is not a member based association! We would like to invite people to become involved by sponsoring and volunteering.



What are the goals of this organization?

WCBSA will provide opportunities for individuals to go and compete in regional, national and international competitions. Our focus will be primarily towards developing athletes in the K-12 grades. This does **not** mean WCBSA will not support the post high school athletic community. We know that athletic routine develops personal confidence, physical advantages and enhanced self confidence which often leads individuals to strive toward their ultimate goals. Not unlike the goals of the School for the Blind, we strive to help these athletes lead richer, fuller lives by helping them learn to improve social interactions and maintain positive self images through involvement in athletic events. Through these events we can help blind and visually impaired athletes learn the thrill of victory.

Fundraising and Support: We have four major fundraisers going on right now. All proceeds provide scholarships to support athletes, fund events and overall operations of the organization.

Entertainment Book - \$30.00 (This ends January 13, 2006!)

Ecophones - Have an old cell phone that doesn't work or you don't use anymore? Donate it to WCBSA and you will not only be disposing of it in an environmentally friendly way, but you will be supporting our athletes.

Magazines Sales - You will save up to 85% on magazine subscriptions with 40% of your purchase going to WCBSA.

Cars 4 Causes – Do you have an old car that you would like to get rid of? Cars 4 Causes can take it off of your hands and you can have the tax break! All proceeds will be sent to WCBSA.

Please visit our website for information about the organization and fundraisers: www.wcbsa.org.

Board of Directors:

Kandi Lukowski, President
(Kandi@wcbsa.org)

Paul Baldwin, Vice-President
(Paul@wcbsa.org)

Jennifer Butcher, Sports Advisor
(Jennifer@wcbsa.org)

Jessica Sydnor, Treasurer
(Jessica@wcbsa.org)

Brooke Strand, Secretary
(Brooke@wcbsa.org)

The West Coast Blind Sports Association is a 501-C-3 organization, and all donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

DIALOGUE Magazine Begins Bimonthly Publication

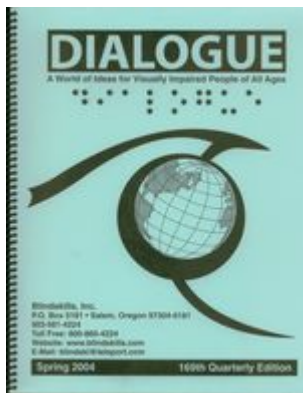
By Carol M. McCarl, Publisher

Blindskills, Inc.

Welcome to a place where you can find answers and solutions!

P.O. Box 5181
Salem, OR 97304-0181

Phone:
800.860.4224 (toll-free)
or 503.581.4224
Fax: 503.581.0178
E-mail: info@blindskills.com
Web: www.blindskills.com



DIALOGUE:

A World of Ideas for Visually Impaired People of All Ages (magazine@blindskills.com). Providing Even More Tips and Resources for Coping with Vision Loss.

With a 44-year history of providing the news, information and resources that empowers people experiencing vision loss to adjust to a different life situation and achieve their goals at school, at work, at home and in the community, DIALOGUE magazine has become a bimonthly publication in 2005. Changing from a quarterly to a bimonthly enables publisher, Carol M. McCarl and editor, Karen Lynn Thomas, to increase the number of practical articles related to living with low vision, assistive technology, and careers as well as provide timelier updates on the latest aids and devices. Highlights from recent issues include articles on finding support groups, driving with low vision, adapting the home environment, purchasing the

best tech tools, and stories of people who are blind who are successfully employed in education, government and business, including a blind legislator serving his fifth term in the state legislature. Upcoming issues will feature articles about services for veterans blinded by war, service-related accidents or disease, traveling with guide dogs, and a holiday gift guide full of got-to-have-it gift ideas for people who are blind or visually impaired. Fred Sanderson, a long-time DIALOGUE subscriber says: "What is unique and noteworthy about DIALOGUE magazine is that it is the only publication targeted at blind readers that provides resources that readers can use to enrich their lives. It's packed with valuable information and practical hints for making tasks easier. DIALOGUE magazine is an outstanding publication that provides information not easily obtained anywhere else." DIALOGUE magazine, now published six times a year, is available in large print, braille, cas-

sette, diskette, and e-mail formats.

For more information or to subscribe, call 800-860-4224 or visit www.blindskills.com.

Blindskills, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that provides support and encouragement to visually impaired people through its many publications and services. In addition to DIALOGUE, Blindskills publishes WHERE DO I GO FROM HERE? and PROMISES TO KEEP, a cassette and booklet for newly blind people and their friends and families, and JOB HUNTING RESOURCES FOR PEOPLE WITH VISION IMPAIRMENTS, a handbook designed to assist visually impaired job seekers to explore careers, write a resume, prepare for interviews, and locate job opportunities.

Call or visit www.blindskills.com for more information.



After School/Evening Programs

By Renee Corso, Associate Principal for After School/Evening Programs



Student Safety: During fall in-service, staff was introduced to the Incident Command System (ICS), and practiced a school-wide evacuation drill using ICS. WSSB also organized two student assemblies devoted entirely to safety and disaster preparedness. Topics included: introduction to the ICS, family disaster preparedness and planning, creating a disaster supply kit, and pet care during a disaster. Students also reviewed earthquake, lock-down, and evacuation procedures and practiced drills in all these areas. The American Red Cross was a welcome and valuable participant and information resource for the assemblies.

Health Center: During the summer, WSSB installed an automated external defibrillator (AED). This device allows the average person to administer shocks to regulate a heart that has stopped working effectively. Fifteen staff were trained prior to the AED's installment, and we are anticipating 30 more staff will be trained in November and January.

Nurse Sarah (Buttrel) began teaching a class on addictions. This class is targeted for vulnerable high school students and any students interested in learning more about the subject. Topics included in this after school class are: addiction vulnerability, effects of smoking, consequences of alcoholism, resistance to drugs, and awareness of eating disorders.

Volunteer Program and Community Partnerships. The Volunteer program is off to a great start. Volunteers are invaluable in providing opportunities in a variety of areas that might otherwise not be possible.

The year began with civilian members of the Vancouver Police Department presenting new bicycle helmets to students involved in tandem biking outings lead by the North River Racing Club. The North River Racing Club generously donated \$1000 to WSSB to encourage athletics. The weekly North River Racers' tandem bike outings are giving students an opportunity to experience the freedom of not only riding a bike, but also the chance to discover various points of interest throughout the community. The Dove Lewis Therapy Dog Volunteers have brought to students the joy and rewards of loving, playing and interacting with animals. The Southwest Wash-

ington Organization of Rescue Divers (SWORD) has given students the unique experience of learning about scuba diving in our own Kennedy pool. The dedicated ski and snowboard volunteers will make it possible for students to participate in these sports during the months of January and February. And the growing number of individual volunteers coming to the cottages to take students swimming, to help with homework, and to interact socially with them are an absolute asset to the kid's daily lives.

Recreation/Leisure: The first two months' lineup of events includes: open gym, family swim night, study hall, Rec. Center, Yoga, Band, Choir, Goalball, USABA Golf Clinic, art, adapted cycling and tandem biking outings, personal shopping, Blazer Basketball game, the Children's Theatre, the pumpkin patch, and a local glass blowing gallery. Students also had the chance to attend an evening presentation hosted by NFB and WCB representatives, who spoke about the importance and value of blind consumer organizations and individual self-advocacy.

Daily Living Skills: Daily Living Skills continues as part of students' daytime and evening education programs. Every student has a minimum of one DLS lesson each week with a DLS Coach. Staff will conduct Fall and Spring assessments of student skill levels, and as an added focus this year, are also planning and preparing meals with kids every Tuesday evening as a cottage group activity. Students are learning not only about meal planning and preparation, but also about budgeting, and the essentials of healthy nutrition. They are practicing their writing and reading skills by creating personal and cottage cookbooks.

LIFTT Program: The LIFTT Program is off to a running start this year with a full house of enthusiastic and energetic young adults excited about the opportunities and discoveries before them. Some students are pursuing studies at Clark Community College, while others are pursuing vocational goals. All are working on their independent living skills and mobility skills. Lori Pulliam continues to direct the program and reports there are a number of students on a waiting list to enter the program when space becomes available.

WHERE IS DR. STENEHJEM?

By Dr. Dean O. Stenehjem, Superintendent

A number of years ago there were all those books, “Where’s Waldo”? Over the past couple of months I have felt like Waldo. As many of you are aware I had the tremendous opportunity to provide leadership as President of the Hadley School for the Blind. After many months of trying to decide whether I should leave Washington and accept this position, I decided to accept this wonderful opportunity, only to later decide that due to personal and family issues I needed to stay in Washington. This was a very trying time when I had to do a tremendous amount of reflective thought on not only what I thought I wanted to do, but also what was ultimately going to be the best for my family. I think the important lesson that I learned through this experience is that you have to trust your heart and your gut. For anyone that struggled as much as I did in trying to decide whether I should move forward in this new position or remain at WSSB, I should have known that staying in Washington was the right decision. However, I guess I needed to be away from the Pacific Northwest, family and friends for just a few days for reality to sink in. I greatly appreciate the Board of Trustees at the Hadley School for the Blind in being as understanding as they were when I shared this information with them.

The Hadley School for the Blind is a wonderful organization that provides Distance Learning classes at no cost to approximately 10,000 students throughout the world. The positive impact that this school has had on blind and visually impaired people is just one measure of the dedication that Mr. William Hadley, founder and original teacher, along with numerous dedicated staff and board members have had on the lives of blind and visually impaired persons. Please check out their website and consider helping the Hadley School continue to make a difference in the lives of the blind and visually impaired. www.hadley-school.org

Where is Dr. Stenehjem? Well I guess he is in Washington at the Washington State School for the Blind where he is going to continue to push for improved services for blind and visually impaired children, continue to develop partnerships and examine new ways of reaching out to those non-served and under-served students. He and his family are happy with their decision to stay, but wish they could have figured this out a little sooner in the process. Washington is a great place to raise a family, a great state, and the Washington State School for the Blind is a great place to work and has wonderful students, staff and families.

Parent’s Perspective

By Kathleen Lipiec Brown, Parent Representative

Citizenship. It was the word that came to mind as I reached for the election ballot in my mailbox. A word remembered from elementary school. Webster says it means, “1. the status or condition of a citizen; 2. The duties, rights, and privileges of this status.” In a few short weeks, my son will be registering to vote.

What have I taught him? How does he get A+ in Citizenship? First, he registers to vote. Which he is very anxious to do, bemoaning his inability to vote in the last presidential election. How does he stay informed? Well, Vaughn is a fan of the BBC via his computer. He likes the news from the British perspective feeling it is less biased. Most days we catch pieces of the local morning news and the national evening news. Each morning I read aloud selections from our newspaper. Then, of course at election time, there is the long read devoted to the “Voter’s Guide.”

How does your family stay informed? How do your children? So much news is available via the radio, television, Internet. Services are available which read the newspaper via the telephone. Magazines are available in print, Braille, and recorded. And what about good, old fashion, dinner table discussions? Politics was a hot topic when I was growing up; sometimes steamier than the mashed potatoes. Then, there is the endless opportunity for political action. Every organization for the Blind would welcome a member wanting his or her voice to be heard, wanting to make a difference. So would every political party and countless community groups. Our mayors, city council members, representatives, and congressmen are very accessible via the telephone, Internet, and at community-based meetings.

We teach our children daily. Let’s include how to be an active citizen of this Great Country.



Washington School for the Blind Foundation

By Angie Armstrong, Executive Director



Access Technology for Blind and Visually Impaired

High School Seniors Across Washington State

The Washington School for the Blind Foundation (WSBF) has taken on a charge of helping blind and visually impaired high school seniors across Washington state receive the access technology they need to be independent. This is a huge undertaking, but the Foundation feels that this is one area where they can make a difference in the successful transition rate for young adults.

Phase I

The program is being piloted at WSSB during the 2005-06 school year. By the end of October, 2005, all WSSB on campus seniors will have completed a comprehensive technology assessment, which will determine the type of access technology they need to be independent. This equipment will then be purchased by WSBF with agreement from each student and their family to pay for part of the technology. This will be determined on a sliding scale basis, which will be tied to the federal free and reduced lunch program. This will guarantee some financial commitment from each student, but will do so on an ability to pay basis. No student will be eliminated from being able to receive appropriate access technology.

Students will receive training on the equipment and upon graduation the equipment will transition with them to work, post secondary education, etc. We are confident that this will assist each young adult in attaining a higher level of successful transition to work.

Phase II

With a gift from the Northwest Lions Foundation for Sight and Hearing, WSBF has begun to have some awareness sessions throughout the state with the goal of providing this service to all graduating seniors who are blind and visually impaired within the state of Washington. The WSBF is looking for partners to help support this endeavor.

On October 22, 2005, WSBF held a benefit concert in Spokane to begin raising funds for this project. Underwriters for the event were Lilac Blind Foundation, The 4 Seasons Coffee Company and Wendle Ford. Partners, like these folks, are needed in order to expand and make this service viable to blind and visually impaired young adults throughout our state.

Please contact me if you are interested in learning more about this project (angie.armstrong@wsbf1.org or 360-696-6321, extension 176), or in partnering with us to make this dream of helping blind and visually impaired high school seniors to receive the access technology they need to be independent.



CAN THE ALUMNI provide A CAN-DO SPIRIT

By James Eccles, President, Former Students Association

Some members of the Washington State School for the Blind's Former Students Association, the alumni association of the Washington State School for the Blind, have felt for a long time that the adult blind population in general and former students of the school in particular could be a tremendous experiential resource to the studentry. Perhaps, a look at one growing boy's story may reveal why.

I was blessed with very forward-thinking parents. When I was just five, they reasoned that they could not definitively know the proper range of expectations to put on their young blind son, unless they saw the abilities and capabilities of some experienced blind adults, up close and personal. In order to do this, James and Poly Eccles opened their home to, first, two, and then four students attending the (then) Piano Hospital and Training Center, a two-year trade school for blind and low-vision students in piano tuning and repair. Some of the students were excellent long-cane travelers, traveling independently all around Vancouver and Portland--the big city. Some were fluent in multiple languages. One student wired up a basement buzzer to make it easier to signal "the boys" when one of them needed to take a call on the downstairs phone. Another fixed Mom's long-dead doorbell, by knowledgeably taking it off the wall, putting in new batteries and putting it back up on the wall: It worked just fine!

For my dad, the can-do attitude clicked when he saw blind people riding bikes. I became the only blind six-year-old that I knew who had one. This came in very handy a couple of years later, when I lived briefly on a California farm and rode bikes up and down the private dirt road and the two-lane, paved highway leading from it with another blind boy. Whenever we heard one of the ten cars coming that used the two-lane each day, we would just pull off the road and let it pass--taking care not to get too close to the two electric fences that paralleled the road. I managed to get only one really good, deep gash on an index finger.

I think when the can-do attitude really began to click for me, personally, was when a totally blind border taught me to ride a skateboard. He picked a steel-pole-festooned route with a slight right-hand jog in the middle. Executed flawlessly, one rode down a short hill, through a covered carport--where the poles were--and down a second short hill with a 90-degree turn at the bottom that I never, ever mastered. Anything less than flawless execution resulted in taking a steel pole in the forehead. Yes, life was tougher back then; but there was a lot of incentive to execute correctly; and a lot of pride, when I could eventually do it right most of the time.

The event that got my siblings on board the can-do blindness caravan was when two young, totally blind hitchhikers just showed up at our house to visit one of their friends staying with us--from Wisconsin. When they got ready to hit the road again after a few days, my middle sister painstakingly made them a poster that clearly indicated their next desired, intermediate destination; and away they went. It was hard to keep their friend, Leo, from going back home with them, too.

Thanks, Mom, Dad. Thanks a lot. Thanks for seeing to it that I have grown up with a can-do attitude! I probably could not have done it, though, without all that experienced help.

China

By Sarah Buttrell, Nurse Supervisor

Laurie, a sub nurse at WSSB, and I planned our trip with excitement and apprehension. We were going to spend two weeks at Bethel Foster home in Lang Fang, China. During my pursuit of a mission opportunity for the summer, I had been referred to a French couple who started a home for blind orphans. They had nearly thirty orphans ranging in age from 1 to 19 years. Could we in some way help them for a couple weeks? We packed our things and nervously boarded the plane for China to meet people we did not know and work with kids who spoke Chinese. I wasn't really sure how this was going to work!

I shouldn't have worried. Laurie and I quickly fell in love with the adorable kids who are in the foster home. We brought games and craft supplies, and worked with them on their English lessons. We used play dough to create makeshift models for a class on reproductive health. We cooked with the kids and taught them how to make an American meal including miniature apple pies. There was a bit of adaptation required on the cooking aspect, but it at least resembled American food in the end! Laurie worked with some of the nannies to teach them about health issues and caring for the kids.

The trip was incredibly impacting. In China orphans are considered outcasts, and blind orphans receive an even lower status and are often treated very poorly. Many Chinese nationals find it strange that people would come from other countries to work with blind children. We, however, felt so privileged and honored to be with them.

When we left, the kids sang us a Chinese rap song their teacher had written. Laurie and I cried as we watched these sweet kids we had come to love walk off into the evening darkness clicking their worn, battered canes down the side walk.

When we got back home, Laurie and I went into action. We decided we had to go back! We have started collecting canes, Braille watches, and supplies. I sent out an email to WSSB staff to see who might be interested in going on a team next summer to teach students and Bethel staff education that would be helpful related to visual impairment. There has been an overwhelming response. Next summer over 12 WSSB staff and friends are planning to travel to China. I am so thrilled that we have this opportunity to go and have our lives changed by working with these incredible children.



Photos: Kids Singing, Play-dough Models



What they say about...WHAT'S IN A NAME

By Don Donaldson, Former Principal, WSSB

Long live the Author! Soon I shall be 100 years old! Hurrah! In childhood I went from seeing to blindness; in youth I went from blindness to seeing an exciting, adventurous life! And from these many adventures came a great 400-page autobiography entitled WHAT'S IN A NAME. You can obtain WHAT'S IN A NAME from the Publisher by calling (888) 280-7715. Price \$21.75.

~From Don Donaldson's speech in Seattle on October 8, 2005 at the C.S.B.P.S. Vision Conference

His reminisces are a treasure to us born so many decades after his youth...

~Annie Charnley-Eveland, Lifestyle Editor, Walla Walla Union Bulletin, Walla Walla, WA, August 11, 2005

In his true autobiography, Don Donaldson provides a stirring account of a great variety of life experiences that would be rare to find in the lifetime of an average person.

~Benjamin F. Smith, Retired Director, Perkins School for the Blind, Watertown, Massachusetts

It seems unlikely that he would remember a single short summer spent on Fidalgo Island more than 8 decades ago. But he does, and in his autobiography he spends a chapter fondly reminiscing about this 1921 idyll, when he was an 11-year old blind boy who ran free and saw Anacortes through the eyes of a little 8-year old girl playmate.

~Elaine Wilson, Staff Writer, Anacortes American, June 29, 2005

An unusual book befitting an unusual life, WHAT'S IN A NAME, offers inspiration, humor, adventure, and hope.

~Publisher, Author House, Bloomington, Indiana

The book tells about an unusual life, lived to its fullest in the two worlds of dismal shadow and restored "come-look-see" perfect eyesight.

~Quoted from the book's back cover

The Donaldson book has a conversational tone; you feel like Don is in your living room talking directly with you. Plus there are many photos to add richness and personalization to the reading experience.

~Jill Slansky, The Oracle, Quarterly publication of the Oregon Reading Association, Winter 2004-2005

According to the autobiography, Donaldson rubbed elbows with Helen Keller, the Kennedy's and Margaret Bourke-White. He also wrote for other magazines about his story.

~Tim Engstrom, Managing Editor, Ellensburg Daily Record, Ellensburg, Washington, June 23, 2005

He had a brush with fame when he wrote an article for Reader's Digest about what it was like to regain his sight at age 21 after being sightless for 14 years.

~Tina Lieu, Staff Writer, Bainbridge Review, Bainbridge Island, WA, April 16, 2005

He was recuperating at home the afternoon of his surgery when he peeked from behind the bandage. "There was a picture on the wall I'd never seen before" he said. "It was like a blow in the face."

~Tom Vogt, Staff Writer, The Columbian, Vancouver, Washington, August, 2001



What they say about...WHAT'S IN A NAME (continued)

Don...today I picked up your good book from the Lighthouse. Most interesting. A life that should interest many people. Thank you for your recollections of early Lighthouse years as you peddled brooms from door-to-door all over the state of Washington to earn college expenses.

~Junius Rochester, Author of Seattle's Best Kept Secret, April 22, 2005

He and his wife Mildred were freighter buffs and spent summers sailing to faraway places even to the war torn Muslim seaports of the Middle East. At one of those ports, they were held hostage for 11 fearful days.

~Editor, The Douglas County Empire Press, East Wenatchee, Washington, April 21, 2005

After Donaldson completed Bachelor and Master Degrees, from the University of Washington, he was accepted at Harvard where he studied Education. His goal was to devote his life to helping blind students.

~Marcus Brotherton, Staff Reporter, The Reflector, Battle Ground, Washington, April 20, 2005

As an active longtime Lion, I have a copy of WHAT'S IN A NAME and I am very pleased that the book tells of Don's years of leadership in the Hazel Dell Lions Club and his continued activities in the Orlando, Florida and Columbia Crest Lions Clubs. He exemplifies dedication and loyalty in Lionism..

~Lion Ed Hewitt, Past District Governor 19G, Vancouver, Washington, August 17, 2005

Since coming to the Washington School for the Blind Foundation, I have had the pleasure of getting acquainted with Don Donaldson, former WSSB Principal. Don has a great love for our young people. He donated funds to the Foundation in 1999 to sponsor PAYDAY, a yearly program whereby the interest is divided equally among WSSB students, grades 4-12.

~Angie Armstrong, Executive Director, Washington School for the Blind Foundation, Vancouver, Washington, March, 2004

WHAT'S IN A NAME is an outstanding classical autobiography written by a Northwest author. We here at the Washington Talking Book and Braille Library are delighted that we could duplicate this great work on talking book, now available for the pleasure of blind and visually impaired women everywhere.

~Gloria Leonard, Director, Washington Talking Book and Braille Library, Seattle, Washington, August 17, 2005

Don Donaldson is also a generous philanthropist, 100% of the proceeds of WHAT'S IN A NAME go to the Washington School for the Blind Foundation to benefit blind children.

~Janet Merz, Administrative Assistant, Washington State School for the Blind, Vancouver, Washington, August 9, 2005

I have found your book to be wise, insightful and interesting. You are a man of courage and compassion. It inspired me to order 6 more copies from the publisher for gifts to members of my family.

~Donald May, owner of the Polar Construction and Mining Company, Fairbanks, Alaska, November 2004

It was at my suggestion that Mr. Donaldson share his recollections of WSSB all the way back to the school's establishment in 1886. Now I think of the coming Yuletide — what glorious gifts this great book will make requiring only a single call to the Publisher—(888) 280-7715.

~Dr. Dean O. Stenehjem, Superintendent, Washington State School for the Blind, Vancouver, Washington, October 31, 2005

Don Donaldson Museum

By Chris Curatolo, Museum Committee Chair

The Don Donaldson Museum is now located in the basement of Old Main. Since its inception last year many plans have been made to catalog each item and research the general history of the museum's content. This year will be very busy for our Museum committee. Our members, Danny Clark, Jan Jorgenson, Jim Eccles, Chris Curatolo, and our student representative Kaylee Rieley will be starting the long process of creating a museum database, scanning all of the hundreds of school photographs onto computer discs, researching each museum item, and cataloging our entire Talking Book collection.

Many research projects have also been started. We are utilizing the State Archive office in Olympia to find all published articles about the school. We are studying proper museum procedures and preservation techniques. Jan Jorgenson is now compiling a list of all former students, teachers and staff, with the years that they attended our school. Many more projects are planned dealing with the expansion of the museum and increased public involvement and awareness.

Kaylee Rieley (age 11) has shown great interest in our schools history. Her interest has sparked the creation of a Student Museum Club. The students will help in keeping the museum clean and organized, tagging each item and creating braille and large print descriptions of each item so that our visually impaired and blind visitors will have a more complete understanding of what is on display.

Don Donaldson's son, David, who has been a museum curator himself, and specializes in Tiffany Art Glass, in Florida, visited our museum this fall and offered his expertise to our committee. We greatly appreciate his interest and assistance and will continue to take advantage of his endless knowledge as our museum continues to grow and expand.

Anyone wishing to donate items or assist our committee in any way is requested to contact Chris Curatolo via e-mail at chris.curatolo@wssb.wa.gov or 696-6321 x-185.

The Lions Roar is produced 3 times per year at the Washington State School for the Blind, 2214 East 13th Street, Vancouver, WA 98661-4120. Phone 360-696-6321 Fax 360-737-2120

E-mail: admin@wssb.wa.gov / Website: www.wssb.wa.gov



Dr. Dean Stenehjem, Superintendent, dean.stenehjem@wssb.wa.gov
 Craig Meador, Director On-Campus Program, craig.meador@wssb.wa.gov
 Dee Amundsen, Director of Outreach Services, dee.amundsen@wssb.wa.gov
 Renee Corso, Supervisor, Residential Program, renee.corso@wssb.wa.gov
 Karen Mowry, Supervisor, Education Program, karen.mowry@wssb.wa.gov
 Colleen Lines, Manager, Braille Access/Instructional Resource Center, colleen.lines@wssb.wa.gov
 Bruce McClanahan, Technology, bruce.mcclanahan@wssb.wa.gov
 Danya Breckons, Information Services Manager, danya.breckons@wssb.wa.gov
 Janet Merz, Publication Editor, janet.merz@wssb.wa.gov



Washington State School for the Blind - Upcoming Events

November	Board of Trustees Meeting (Olympia) End of 1 st Quarter Veterans Day Holiday Thanksgiving Holiday	November 4-5 November 10 November 11 November 24-25
December	Tree Decorating Winter Holiday Program Winter Holiday	December 6 (12:00 pm) December 15 (6:30 pm) Dec. 19-Jan. 2
January	Students returning by bus/air Board of Trustees Conference Call M.L. King's Birthday Lions Swim Meet PAYDAY Assembly	January 2 January 10 January 16 January 26 January 27
February	End of 2 nd Quarter/1 st Semester President's Day	February 3 February 20
March	State In-Service Day (AER Conference) Board of Trustees Meeting WSSB/WSD Lions Carnival	March 10 March 17-18 March 23
April	Spring Break End of 3 rd Quarter	April 3-7 April 14
May	Camp Magruder Board of Trustees Conference Call Career Fair Lions Track Meet Music Department-Program/Volunteer Recognition Memorial Day	May 1-5 May 4 May 18-19 May 18 May 25 May 29

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If you have internet access and will be accessing our newsletter online, please contact us so we can remove your name from our newsletter mailing list. This could result in a savings of printing costs and postage.

Contact Janet Merz, (360) 696-6321 x120 or e-mail:
janet.merz@wssb.wa.gov or write:

WSSB, 2214 E. 13th Street, Vancouver, WA 98661

